

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-30 were pending. Claims 1-3, 10, 12, 14-16, 22, and 28-30 are canceled.

Claims 4-6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 17-21, and 27 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the claims as originally filed. Claim 27 is withdrawn from consideration. Claims 4-9, 11, 13, 17-21, and 23-26 are currently under examination.

II. RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Applicants elect to pursue Group I (claims 3-16) drawn to an isolated polynucleotide comprising a chimeric GB virus B (GBV-B) polynucleotide encoding a virus and further elect embodiment C (claims 6, 7, 22, and 23) directed to a chimeric GBV-B virus comprising domain III of the hepatitis C virus 5' NTR. Applicants reserve the right to pursue non-elected claims 1-2, 17-21, and 24-30 in a divisional application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent at (512) 536-3167 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles P. Landrum
Reg. No. 46,855
Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 474-5201
(512) 536-4598 (facsimile)

Date: November 12, 2007